Claims

[c1]   A method for providing a cutting file for a computer numerical control robotic
tool to a customer, the method comprising the steps of:

providing at a site remote from the customer a generic model for a particular
product to be made by the customer;

displaying to the customer a representational image of the product
corresponding to the particular product and default design parameters for the
image;

allowing the customer to modify at least one default design parameter and to
select final design parameters for the model;

receiving data corresponding to the final design parameters at the site remote
from the customer;

generating at the remote site using the generic model for a particular product a
cutting file that incorporates the final design parameters; and

making the cutting file available to the customer.

[c2]   The method for providing a cutting file of claim 1, further comprising the steps
of:

generating a final representational image of the product that incorporates the
final design parameters; and

displaying the final representational image to the customer.

[c3]   The method for providing a cutting file of claim 2, wherein the product
comprises a plurality of components, and further comprising the steps of:

generating a representational image of at least one individual component of the
product;

displaying the at least one individual component image; and

allowing the customer to specify tool-related data.

[c4]   The method for providing a cutting file of claim 1, wherein the step of making
the cutting file available to the customer comprises transmitting the cutting file
to the customer from a memory system.

[c5]   The method for providing a cutting file of claim 1, wherein the step of making
the cutting file available to the customer comprises storing the cutting file on a

memory system accessible to the customer through a public communications network, and further comprising the step of allowing the customer to access the cutting file.

[c6]   The method for providing a cutting file of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving data comprises receiving data through a public communications network.

[c7]   The method for providing a cutting file of claim 1, further comprising the step of executing a financial transaction in which the customer purchases the cutting file in advance of making the cutting file available to the customer.

[c8]   The method for providing a cutting file of claim 7, wherein the step of executing a financial transaction comprises executing the financial transaction through a public communications network.

[c9]   A method for providing a cutting file for a computer numerical control robotic tool to a customer, the method comprising the steps of:
providing at a site remote from the customer a generic model for a particular product to be made by the customer, wherein the product comprises a plurality of components;
displaying to the customer a representational image of the product corresponding to the particular product and default design parameters for the image;
allowing the customer to modify at least one default design parameter and to select final design parameters for the model;
generating a customized representational image of the product that incorporates the at least one modified design parameter;
displaying the customized representational image to the customer;
generating at least one customized representational image of the individual components;
displaying the at least one customized individual component image to the customer;
receiving data corresponding to the final design parameters at a site remote from the customer through a public communications network;
generating at the remote site using the generic model for a particular product a

cutting file that incorporates the final design parameters;

storing the cutting file on a memory system accessible to the customer through a public communications network;

executing a financial transaction in which the customer purchases the cutting file through a public communications network; and

allowing the customer to access the cutting file.

[c10]   Apparatus for providing a cutting file for a computer numerical control robotic tool to a customer, the apparatus comprising:

means for providing at a site remote from the customer a generic model for a particular product to be made by the customer;

means for displaying to the customer a representational image of the product corresponding to the particular product and default design parameters for the image;

means for allowing the customer to modify at least one default design parameter and to select final design parameters for the model;

means for receiving data corresponding to the final design parameters at the site remote from the customer;

means for generating at the remote site using the generic model for a particular product a cutting file that incorporates the final design parameters; and

means for making the cutting file available to the customer.

[c11]   The apparatus for providing a cutting file of claim 10, further comprising:

means for generating a final representational image of the product that incorporates the final design parameters; and

means for displaying the final representational image to the customer.

[c12]   The apparatus for providing a cutting file of claim 11, further comprising:

means for generating a representational image of at least one individual component of the product;

means for displaying the at least one individual component image; and

means for allowing the customer to specify tool-related data.

[c13]   The apparatus for providing a cutting file of claim 10, wherein the means for making the cutting file available to the customer further comprises means for

transmitting the file to the customer from a memory system.

[c14]   The apparatus for providing a cutting file of claim 10, wherein the means for
          making the cutting file available to the customer further comprises means for
          storing the file on a memory system accessible to the customer through a public
          communications network, and further comprising means for allowing the
          customer to access the cutting file.

[c15]   The apparatus for providing a cutting file of claim 10, wherein the means for
          receiving data further comprises means for receiving data through a public
          communications network.

[c16]   The apparatus for providing a cutting file of claim 10, further comprising means
          for executing a financial transaction in which the customer purchases the
          cutting file in advance of making the cutting file available to the customer.

[c17]   The apparatus for providing a cutting file of claim 16, wherein the means for
          executing a financial transaction further comprises means for executing the
          financial transaction through a public communications network.

[c18]
          A computer program product for providing a cutting file for a computer
          numerical control robotic tool to a customer, the computer program
          comprising:
          instructions for providing at a site remote from the customer a generic model
          for a particular product to be made by the customer;
          instructions for displaying to the customer a representational image of the
          product corresponding to the particular product and default design parameters
          for the image;
          instructions for allowing the customer to modify at least one default design
          parameter and to select final design parameters for the model;
          instructions for receiving data corresponding to the final design parameters at
          the site remote from the customer;
          instructions for generating at the remote site using the generic model for a
          particular product a cutting file that incorporates the final design parameters;
          and

instructions for making the cutting file available to the customer.

[c19]   The computer program of claim 18, further comprising:
instructions for generating a final representational image of the product that incorporates the final design parameters; and
instructions for displaying the customized representational image to the customer.

[c20]   The computer program of claim 18, further comprising:
instructions for generating a representational image of at least one individual component of the product;
instructions for displaying the at least one individual component image; and
instructions for allowing the customer to specify tool-related data.

[c21]   The computer program of claim 18, wherein the instructions for making the cutting file available to the customer further comprises instructions for transmitting the file to the customer from a memory system.

[c22]   The computer program of claim 18, wherein the instructions for making the cutting file available to the customer further comprises instructions for storing the file on a memory system accessible to the customer through a public communications network, and further comprising instructions for allowing the customer to access the cutting file.

[c23]   The computer program of claim 18, wherein the instructions for receiving data further comprises instructions for receiving data through a public communications network.

[c24]   The computer program of claim 18, further comprising instructions for executing a financial transaction in which the customer purchases the cutting file in advance of making the cutting file available to the customer.

[c25]   The computer program of claim 24, wherein the instructions for executing a financial transaction further comprise instructions for executing the financial transaction through a public communications network.

[c26]   The computer program of claim 18, wherein the instructions for providing a

cutting file template further comprise instructions to access a database of generic models for particular products, and the instructions for displaying a representational image of the product corresponding to a particular model further comprise instructions to access a database of representational images.

[c27] The computer program of claim 26, wherein the computer program is embodied on a plurality of media enabled to operate a plurality of computers systems interconnected by a network.

[c28] A computer readable memory system encoded with a data structure for enabling provision of a cutting file for a computer numerical control robotic tool to a customer, the memory system being accessible over a network, the data structure comprising:
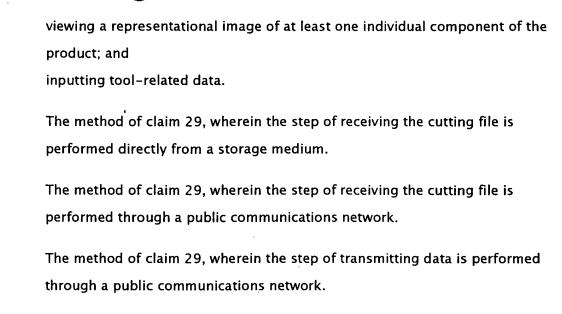a plurality of generic models for a respective plurality of products to be made by a customer; and
a plurality of representational images corresponding to the respective plurality of products and having default design parameters.

[c29] A method for a customer to acquire a cutting file for a computer numerical control robotic tool, the method comprising the steps of:
viewing a representational image of the product corresponding to a generic model for a product to be made by the customer and to default design parameters for the image;
identifying and inputting any desired modifications to the default design parameters, creating final design parameters;
transmitting data corresponding to the final design parameters to a site remote from the customer;
requesting a cutting file from the remote site; and
receiving the cutting file.

[c30] The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of viewing a final representational image of the product corresponding to final design parameters.

[c31] The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

viewing a representational image of at least one individual component of the product; and

inputting tool-related data.

[c32]   The method of claim 29, wherein the step of receiving the cutting file is performed directly from a storage medium.

[c33]   The method of claim 29, wherein the step of receiving the cutting file is performed through a public communications network.

[c34]   The method of claim 29, wherein the step of transmitting data is performed through a public communications network.

[c35]   The method of claim 29, further comprising the step executing a financial transaction in which the customer purchases the cutting file in advance of receiving the cutting file.

[c36]   The method of claim 35, wherein the financial transaction is executed through a public communications network.